

RACE AND INSANITY.*

By JAS. G. KIERNAN, M.D., CHICAGO,

LATE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT COOK COUNTY HOSPITAL FOR INSANE.

BEFORE proceeding to further discuss the intellectual phenomena presented by the negro insane, I have thought it best to summarize the different races in the present paper for purposes of comparison with the results

TABLE I.

Psychosis.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Mania	34	25	59
Melancholia	46	57	103
Katatonía	11	9	20
Stuporous Insanity	6	6	12
Primary Confusional Insanity	5	6	11
Acute Hysterical "	0	25	25
" Alcoholic "	15	13	28
Climacteric Insanity	0	5	5
Choreic "	1	0	1
Rheumatic "	1	1	2
Syphilitic "	6	4	10
Paranoia	92	56	148
Hebephrenia	36	15	51
Typhomania	2	3	5
Chronic Hysterical Insanity	0	31	31
" Alcoholic "	20	12	32
Phthisical Insanity	4	3	7
Traumatic "	16	5	21
Senile "	21	28	49
Periodical "	14	19	33
Circular "	9	8	17
Epileptic "	62	55	117
Paretic Dementia	79	13	92
Coarse Brain Disease Dementia	7	6	13
Terminal Dementia	15	31	46
Primary Mental Deterioration	9	8	17
Idiocy	3	3	6
Imbecility	7	6	13
Secondary Confusional Insanity	72	127	199
Total	593	550	1143

* A series of Studies in Ethnological Psychiatry.

obtained as regards race and insanity in New York city.¹ The number of insane tabulated is 1,143, and the psychoses presented are as above (Table I).

The first noticeable feature is that the psychoses which tend to increase the population of an insane hospital are not as frequent as might be expected, and this is clearly due to the enormous death rate. The Cook County Insane Hospital for the past ten years has had a death rate of more than double that of any insane hospital in the United States. The predominance of psychoses like paranoia which produce an errabund tendency is what might have been expected from the theatrical character of the wide reputation of Chicago.

TABLE II.—MANIA.

Race.	Blonde.			Brunette.					
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Total Male	Total Female	Grand Total
ARYAN									
<i>Teutonic.</i>									
Anglo-Saxon, American	4	6	10	1	2	3	5	8	13
" English	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	2
German	6	3	9	0	1	1	6	4	10
Scandinavian-Danish .	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	2
" -Norweg.	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	2
<i>Sclavonic.</i>									
Bohemian	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	2
Polish	4	0	4	0	0	0	4	0	4
<i>Celtic.</i>									
Irish	6	4	10	1	2	3	7	6	13
" -American . . .	6	2	8	0	0	0	6	2	8
" -Canadian . . .	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
<i>Latin.</i>									
Italian	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	2
Total	29	18	47	5	7	12	34	25	59

This table tends to bear out the old conclusion that mania is very frequent among blondes. That a general conclusion can be drawn of this character, free from racial elements of error, is obvious from the relative frequency of the psychosis among the blondes of races in which brunettes predominate, like the Sclavonic and Celtic. The

¹ Spitzka: JOURNAL OF NERVOUS AND MENTAL DISEASE, October, 1880.

Germans form about one half the population of Cook County, yet mania is much less frequent among them than among the Anglo-Saxons and the Celts. The English and American Anglo-Saxons seem to furnish about the same proportion of maniacs, since the American population is about six times the English. The American women seem to be more liable to attacks of mania than either the German or Celtic women. The Polish men seem most liable to mania, while the male Irish-Americans seem to be much more frequently attacked by mania than the women.

TABLE III.—MELANCHOLIA.

Race.	Blonde.			Brunette.			Total Male.	Total Female.	Total.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.			
ARYAN.									
<i>Teutonic.</i>									
Anglo-Saxon, American	2	4	6	3	6	9	5	10	15
" English	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	2
German	3	8	11	8	6	14	11	14	25
" -American	3	3	6	1	0	1	4	3	7
" -Austrian	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
" -Swiss	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Hollander	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Scandinavian-Danish	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	2
" -Swede	3	3	6	0	1	1	3	4	7
" -Norweg.	2	2	4	0	0	0	2	2	4
<i>Latin.</i>									
French-Canadian	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
<i>Celtic.</i>									
Irish	1	1	2	8	9	17	9	10	19
" -American	2	1	3	4	5	9	6	6	12
<i>Slavonic.</i>									
Bohemian	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
Polish	2	0	2	0	2	2	2	2	4
SIEMITIC.									
Hebrew ¹	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
Total	19	23	42	27	34	61	46	57	103

The old view as to the frequency of melancholia among brunettes seems to some extent to be supported by this table, but no very decided conclusion can be drawn from it in this respect. Melancholia seems to be more frequent

¹ Wherever Hebrew alone is used German Hebrew is to be understood.

among the Celts in Chicago than in New York, and this *a priori* was what was to have been expected. The enterprising Celt left the sea-coast, and he was much more likely to become the victim of depression than the Celt who took things coolly and showed this by remaining where he landed. The same cause which makes paretic dementia more common in Chicago among the Celts than in New York would tend to produce melancholia in the weaker Celtic brains.

TABLE IV.—KATATONIA.

Race.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ARYAN.			
<i>Teutonic.</i>			
Anglo-Saxon, American	2	1	3
German	2	0	2
"-American	2	1	3
Hollander	1	0	1
Scandinavian-Norwegian	1	1	2
"-Swedish	0	2	2
<i>Celtic.</i>			
Irish	0	1	1
"-American	2	1	3
<i>Slavonic.</i>			
Bohemian	1	0	1
Polish	0	1	1
SHÉMITIC.			
Hebrew	0	1	1
Total	11	9	20

The percentage of cases of katatonia is much the same in Cook County as in New York. It seems, however, to be much less frequent among Celts than it is in New York.

TABLE V.—PRIMARY CONFUSIONAL INSANITY.

Race.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ARYAN.			
<i>Teutonic.</i>			
Anglo-Saxon, American	2	2	4
German	0	1	1
"-American	1	1	2
Scandinavian-Sweden	1	1	2
<i>Celtic.</i>			
Irish	1	0	1
"-American	0	1	1
Total	5	6	11

The causes in one half the cases were exhaustion from measles, scarlatina, varicella (one case) puerperal fever, malaria, and allied febrile conditions.

Five of the cases in the next table were due to sudden mental shock.

TABLE VI.—STUPOROUS INSANITY.

Race.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ARYAN.			
<i>Teutonic.</i>			
Anglo-Saxon, Irish	1	1	2
“ “ English	1	1	2
“ “ American	2	1	3
German-American	1	1	2
Scandinavian-Swede	1	1	2
<i>Slavonic.</i>			
Bohemian	0	1	1
Total	6	6	12

TABLE VII.—ACUTE HYSTERICAL INSANITY.

Race.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ARYAN.			
<i>Teutonic.</i>			
Anglo-Saxon, American		2	2
“ “ West Indian		1	1
German		8	8
American		1	1
Scandinavian-Dane		1	1
<i>Celtic.</i>			
Irish		9	9
<i>Latin.</i>			
Italian		1	1
HEBREW		1	1
NEGRO		1	1
Total		25	25

The Irish seem to be much more liable to acute hysterical insanity than the American Anglo-Saxons or the Germans.

This table bears out the usual conclusion as to the frequency of intemperance among Celtic women. The two Saxon American cases were the distant result of urticaria. The patients were advised to use alcohol to secure slumber, and very naturally went beyond their directions, resulting in an attack of alcoholic insanity, which was at first charged

to the urticaria, but investigation by friends, under a hint from the physician as to the real cause, soon revealed the true nature of the case.

TABLE VIII.—ACUTE ALCOHOLIC INSANITY.

Race.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ARYAN.			
<i>Teutonic.</i>			
Anglo-Saxon, American		2	2
" Scotch	1	0	1
German	4	2	6
"-American	1	1	2
Scandinavian-Norwegian	2	0	2
<i>Slavonic.</i>			
Polish	1	0	1
<i>Celtic.</i>			
Irish	4	4	8
"-American	2	4	6
Total	15	13	28

TABLE IX.—CLIMACTERIC INSANITY.

Race.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ARYAN.			
<i>Teutonic.</i>			
Anglo-Saxon, American		1	1
German		2	2
<i>Celtic.</i>			
Irish		2	2
Total		5	5

TABLE X.

Race.	Choreic.			Rheumatic.			Syphilitic.			Grand Total.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
ARYAN.										
<i>Teutonic.</i>										
Ang.-Sax. Am.	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2
German	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	4
German-Amer.	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Scandin.-Norwegian	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Celtic.</i>										
Irish	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
HEBREW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2
NEGRO	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
Total	1	0	1	1	1	2	6	4	10	13

The two Hebrew females suffering from syphilitic insanity acquired the syphilis from a criminal assault made upon them by hoodlums, and the same is true of the German females.

The chronic psychoses admitted were as follows:

TABLE XII.—PARETIC DEMENTIA.¹

Races.	Male.	Female.	Total.
<i>ARYAN.</i>			
<i>Tuetonic.</i>			
German	12	1	13
“ -American	2		2
“ -Austrian	1		1
“ -Swiss	1		1
Hollanders	5	1	6
Anglo-Saxons, American	19	1	20
“ “ English	3		3
“ “ Scotch	1		1
Scandinavian-Danish	1	1	2
“ -Swedish	2	2	4
“ -Norwegian	1		1
<i>Celtic.</i>			
Irish	19	7	26
<i>Latin.</i>			
French	1		1
French-Canadian	2		2
<i>Slavonic.</i>			
Bohemian	1		1
Polish	1		1
<i>SEMITIC.</i>			
Hebrew-German	1		1
“ -American	1		1
NEGRO	2		2
Total	76	13	89

The psychosis in which recovery was probable formed but a small per cent. of those coming under observation—a little under five per cent. Excluding the periodical type from consideration, it is these last which swell the insane-hospital recovery rates. A large recovery rate is very fair evidence of a medical superintendent's ignorance or untrustworthiness. I have known of paranoiacs with concealed persecutory primary and exalted secondary systematized delusions being discharged as recovered from insane hospitals when a paroxysm of emotional disturbance had subsided. I have known superintendents to assure the

¹ The table concerning paranoia and a general racial summary will appear in next number, both having been mislaid.

wives of chronic alcoholic lunatics that the latter were recovering when the delusion of marital infidelity was as decided as ever. Here is one of the great sources of error which Pliny Earle has pointed out in the statistics of insane hospitals respecting recoveries. Dr. Hurd has called attention to the frequency of hallucinations in acute mania. In my opinion many of his cases belong to the primary confusional types which occur as a result of conditions of exhaustion from the specific fevers, etc.

TABLE XIII.—TYPHOMANIA.

Races.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ARYAN.			
<i>Tuetic.</i>			
Anglo-Saxon, American	1	1	2
<i>Celtic.</i>			
Irish-American	1	2	3
Total	2	3	5

Typhomania¹ is in all probability much more frequent than here indicated, as many cases die before coming under hospital treatment, and the death is charged to "meningitis." The frequency of paretic dementia is clearly due to the speculative atmosphere of Chicago.

The percentage of hebephreniacs is much the same as in New York, the male percentage being somewhat greater. Two of the English cases had married and procreated several children before their mental condition was discovered. From certain indications I am inclined to believe that the chastity is not as distinguishing a characteristic of Celt as is generally believed. The infrequency of illegitimacy in Ireland is due to the ease with which marriage is contracted in that country as compared with the Continent. The unions formed on the Continent are in many cases just as pure and permanent, but lack the formal sanction of the law. The clan code of morality tends to prevent violations of chastity by members of the clan, but these readily occur when the individual is removed from the influence of the clan. The relative frequency of masturbation among the

¹ Délire Aigu. Bell's Disease. Grave Delirium.

relatives of the Celtic female insane, as shown in histories given, certainly is opposed to the usual view. Tribadism was found to be relatively frequent among the Celtic insane females.

TABLE XIV.—HEBEPHRENIA.

Races.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ARYAN.			
<i>Teutonic.</i>			
German	3	1	4
" -American	3	1	4
" -Austrian			
" -Swiss			
Hollanders			
Anglo-Saxons, American	1	1	2
" " English	4	1	5
" " Scotch	2	0	2
Scandinavian-Danish	2	1	3
" -Swedish	2	1	3
" -Norwegian	2	1	3
<i>Celtic.</i>			
Irish	3	1	4
" -American	6	2	8
" -Canadian	2	1	3
<i>Slavonic.</i>			
Bohemian	2	1	3
Polish	2	1	3
SCHEMITIC.			
Hebrew-American	2	1	3
NEGRO	1		
Total	37	14	51

TABLE XV.—CHRONIC ALCOHOLIC INSANITY.

Races.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ARYAN.			
<i>Teutonic.</i>			
German	5	2	7
" -American	1	2	3
Hollanders			
Anglo-Saxon, American	4		4
<i>Celtic.</i>			
Irish	6	4	10
" -American	2	3	5
<i>Latin.</i>			
Italian	1		1
<i>Slavonic.</i>			
Bohemian	1		1
SHIEMITIC.			
Hebrew		1	1
NEGRO			
Total	20	12	32

The table seems to indicate that the Celts retain their intemperate habits in the United States, and the Germans and Latins are becoming addicted to the abuse of alcohol. While not prepared to discuss temperance issues here, it is my opinion that the abuse of the alcohol habit is rather a result of causes external to the individual, which did not act in Germany and Italy.

TABLE XVI.—CHRONIC HYSTERICAL INSANITY.

Races.	Female.
ARYAN.	
<i>Teutonic.</i>	
Anglo-Saxon, American	4
German	4
"-American	4
Scandinavian-Swedish	3
"-Danish	3
<i>Latin.</i>	
Italian	2
<i>Celtic.</i>	
Irish	8
SIEMITIC.	
Hebrew-German	1
"-American	1
NEGRO	1
Total	31

TABLE XVII.—TRAUMATIC INSANITY.

Races.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ARYAN.			
<i>Teutonic.</i>			
Anglo-Saxon, American	1	0	1
German	6	2	8
"-American	1	1	2
Hollanders	1	0	1
<i>Celtic.</i>			
Irish	3	2	5
"-American	3	0	3
<i>Latin.</i>			
Italian	1	0	1
Total	16	5	21

TABLE XVIII.—CLIMACTERIC INSANITY.

Races.										Female.
<i>ARYAN.</i>										
<i>Teutonic.</i>										
Anglo-Saxon, American	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
German	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
<i>Celtic.</i>										
Irish	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Total	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5

TABLE XIX.—EPILEPTIC INSANITY.

	Equivalent.		Pre-Epil.		Post-Epil.		Mixed.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	T.
<i>ARYAN.</i>											
<i>Teutonic.</i>											
German	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	2	7	7	14
"-American	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	3	1	4
"-Austrian											
"-Swiss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hollanders	1		1		1	1	2	0	5	1	6
Anglo-Saxon, American	1	1	2	3	2	3	3	3	8	10	18
" English	1		1		1	1	0	1	3	2	5
" Scotch	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	3	2	5
" Canadian	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Scandinavian-Danish			1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	6
"-Swedish	1		1			1	1	2	3	2	5
"-Norwegian			1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	6
<i>Celtic.</i>											
Irish	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	6	6	12
"-American	1		1	1	1	1	2	3	5	4	9
"-Canadian						1	1	1	1	2	3
<i>Slavonic.</i>											
Bohemian			1				1		2	0	2
<i>HEMITIC.</i>											
Hebrew-German			1			1	2	1	3	2	5
"-American			1		1	1	1	0	3	1	4
NEGRO	1	1	1	1	1	3		4	3	9	12
Total	9	4	15	8	16	21	22	22	61	56	117

The large percentage of epileptics suggests a ready explanation of certain mysterious murders which from time to time startle the community. Many of the female foreign-born epileptics were married and had had children. The

husband understanding fully his wife's disease but being paid to marry did so. In three instances among the Germans such a marriage was a demonstrable medical prescription for the cure of the epilepsy. The comparative frequency of epilepsy among the Scandinavians suggests an explanation of the aberrant religious tendency which shows itself in their frequent acceptances of Mormonism as a creed.

TABLE XX.—PERIODICAL INSANITY.

Races.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ARYAN.			
<i>Teutonic.</i>			
Anglo-Saxon, American	2	2	4
" English	0	1	1
" Canadian	1	0	1
German	2	3	5
" -American	0	2	2
Scandinavian-Sweden	1	1	2
" Norway	0	2	2
<i>Latin</i>			
French-Canadian	1	0	1
<i>Celtic</i>			
Irish	2	2	4
American	1	3	4
Canadian	0	2	2
<i>Slavonic</i>			
Bohemian	1	1	2
SHEMITIC			
Hebrew-Polish	2	0	2
NEGRO	1	0	1
Total	14	19	33

TABLE XXI.—CIRCULAR INSANITY.

Races.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ARYAN.			
<i>Teutonic.</i>			
Anglo-Saxon, American	2	1	3
German	3	2	5
Scandinavian-Norwegian	1	2	3
<i>Celtic.</i>			
Irish	3	3	6
Total	9	8	17

TABLE XXII.—COARSE-BRAIN DISEASE DEMENTIA.

Race.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ARYAN.			
<i>Teutonic.</i>			
Anglo-Saxon, American	1	2	3
German- "	2	1	3
Swedish- "	2	2	4
<i>Celtic.</i>			
Irish-American	1	2	3
Total	6	7	13

TABLE XXIII.—PRIMARY MENTAL DETERIORATION.

Race.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ARYAN.			
<i>Teutonic.</i>			
Anglo-Saxon, American		2	2
German		1	1
<i>Celtic.</i>			
Irish	3	1	4
Total	3	4	7

TABLE XXIV.—IMBECILITY.

Race.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ARYAN.			
<i>Teutonic.</i>			
Anglo-Saxon, American	1	3	4
" " Canadian	1	0	1
German	1	1	2
Scandinavian-Swede	1		1
<i>Celtic</i>			
Irish	1	1	2
" -American	1	1	2
<i>Latin.</i>			
Italian	1	0	1
Total	7	6	13

TABLE XXV.—IDIOCY.

Race.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ARYAN.			
<i>Teutonic.</i>			
German	0	2	2
American	1	0	1
Scandinavian-American	2	0	2
<i>Celtic.</i>			
Irish	0	1	1
Total	3	3	6

TABLE XXVI.—PHITHISICAL INSANITY.

Race.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ARYAN.			
<i>Teutonic.</i>			
Anglo-Saxon, American	1	0	1
German	2	2	4
<i>Celtic.</i>			
Irish-American	1	0	1
<i>Slavonic.</i>			
Bohemian	0	1	1
Total	4	3	7

TABLE XXVII.—TERMINAL DEMENTIA.

Race.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ARYAN.			
<i>Teutonic.</i>			
Anglo-Saxon, American	2	8	10
" English	2	3	5
German	2	6	8
Scandinavian-Norwegian	1	2	3
" -Swedish	1	2	3
<i>Slavonic.</i>			
Polish	1	0	1
<i>Celtic.</i>			
Irish	2	6	8
"-American	1	2	3
"-Canadian	1	0	1
<i>Latin.</i>			
Italian	1	0	1
SHEMITIC.			
Hebrew, Belgian-Polish	1	2	3
Total	15	31	46

TABLE XXVIII.—SECONDARY CONFUSIONAL INSANITY.

Race.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ARYAN.			
<i>Teutonic.</i>			
Anglo-Saxon, American	9	19	28
“ “ English	1	2	3
“ “ Scotch	1	1	2
“ “ Canadian	1	1	2
German	9	14	23
“ -American	5	4	9
“ -Austrian	2	3	5
“ -Swiss	3	4	7
Sandinavian-Swedish	6	8	14
“ -Norwegian	2	4	6
“ -Danish	1	1	2
<i>Latin.</i>			
Spanish	1	0	1
Italian	2	3	5
French	1	3	4
“ -Canadian	1	1	2
“ -Swiss	1	1	2
“ -Belgian	1	0	1
<i>Celtic.</i>			
Irish	14	27	41
“ -American	5	15	20
“ -Canadian	1	2	3
“ -Welsh	0	1	1
<i>Slavonic.</i>			
Bohemian	1	3	4
Russian	1	2	3
Polish	1	3	4
<i>SEMITIC.</i>			
Hebrew-Polish	2	2	4
MONGOLIAN.			
Hungarian	1	3	4
Total	73	127	200

For the reasons already stated the proportion of secondary confusional lunatics is much smaller than it is elsewhere. The fact that the female death-rate up to 1884, exceeded the male explains why the proportion between the sexes is not the same as found elsewhere.

[To be continued.]